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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 21 | Humidity 77% Scattered Showers Sensex 80,975 | Nifty 24,467 | Gold 76,071 | Silver 89,650 | Dollar 84.76 | Euro 88.90 | GBP 107.33

CYCLONE EFFECT

Bengaluru gets more than its share of annual average rainfall due to Fengal, but citizens worry about crop damage making grocery bills steeper

PAGE 2

LIFE IN TRANSIT

294 children rescued by Railway Protection Force in Bengaluru; officials say most get on trains to escape family disputes or chasing greener pastures

PAGE 3

Citizens knock on National Green Tribunal door over delay in rejuvenation of Bellandur Lake, seek release of funds, time-bound plan to finish work before next monsoon begins

ALL PLANS STUCK IN SILT

Proposal to remove only 1.3 mt silt questioned

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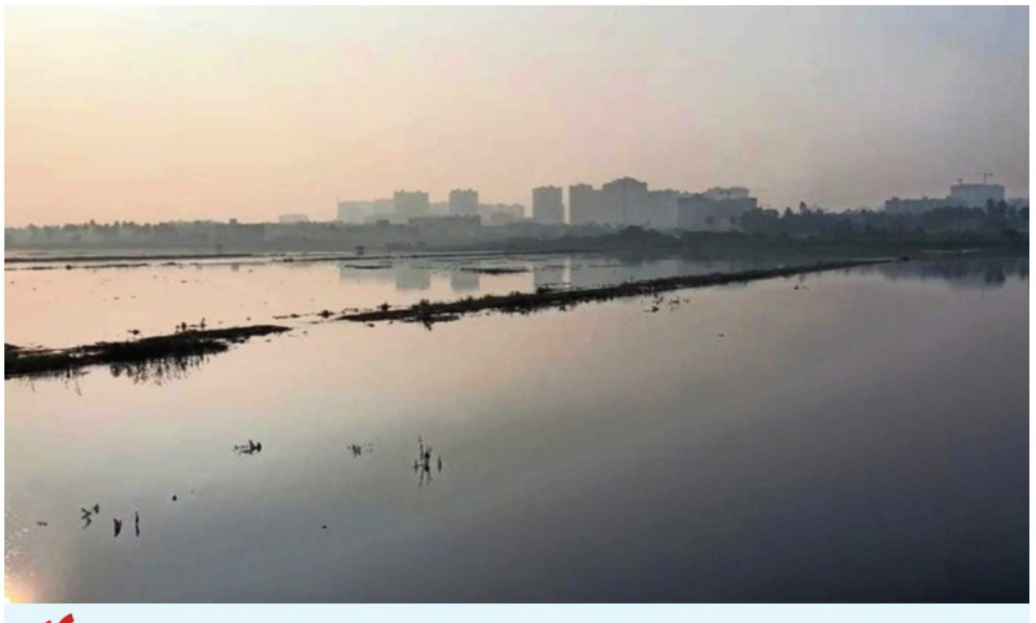

> **“Without an immediate resumption of rejuvenation, we’ll lose this year too. If the project is shelved due to a lack of funds, Rs 100 crore spent so far will have been wasted**
>
> — Sonali Singh, Change Maker - Bellandur Lake

Residents of Bellandur and Yemalur have approached the National Green Tribunal (NGT) regarding the delay in rejuvenating Bellandur Lake. Locals have approached the tribunal stating that revival of the water body is essential for East Bengaluru’s water security, biodiversity, and ecological balance.

In their letter, citizens have urged the Green Court to direct the Karnataka Government to immediately release additional funds so desilting and wetland construction at the lake can be resumed.

“The current state of the project demands immediate intervention to prevent the irreversible degradation of this critical resource. We have requested NGT to issue directions for the release of funds and to set a time-bound plan to complete the project before the next monsoon season,” said Sonali Singh of Change Maker - Bellandur Lake.

Locals have also demanded re-establishment of a dedicated monitoring committee to oversee and ensure accountability in the lake rejuvenation project apart from adherence to the NGT Expert Committee’s recommendations for desilting depth and scientific rejuvenation.

How it started

The rejuvenation of Bellandur Lake began in 2020 when the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) initiated the desilting. However, BDA’s recent progress report of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

Racket on the road

1,344 cases against use of defective silencers this year as high-end bikers break rules on highways

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Highways have become hotspots for dangerous high-speed biking, with incidents of high-end motorcycles using modified silencers to amplify noise and create disruptions. On Sunday, four such motorcycles were seized on the Kempegowda International Airport (KIAL) Road for excessive noise and speeding. In addition, 55 cases of speeding were booked by Bengaluru traffic police (North division) during the same operation.

These cases registered are a part of special drives which are conducted every weekend on Airport Rand also on other highways, as such violations predominantly occur during these times.

“Bikers using modified silencers, including low-end bikes fitted with high-end silencers, are booked during these operations. Altering or modifying silencers in this manner is illegal,” a higher traffic police official told BM.

Once offenders are caught, their registration certificates (RCs) are sent for cancellation. Additionally, the defective silencers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 For better earth

Workshop on 'Advancing Climate Resilient Healthcare: Pathways for Private Healthcare Facilities.' The workshop will emphasise sustainability and health equity in the face of climate change.
Where: Vivanta by Taj, 66 Residency Road; When: December 5, 1 pm to 5:30 pm

02 Techno music

Caged returns to Indiranagar Social with homeboys Chaz & Seventh Sea taking centre stage and support from Laidbacklevi & Rowena.
Where: Indiranagar Social
When: December 7, 8 pm onwards

03 Formal Bharatnayam debut

Bharatanatyam Arangetram, Nrityaradhana, of Diya Shankar, daughter of Ramya and Shankar. She is a disciple of Acharya Dr Raksha Karthik from the Natanam Institute of Dance.
Where: JSS Auditorium; When: December 7, 5 pm

04 Walk down memory lane

'From Bangalore, with Love,' an exhibition of postcards from 1890-1910, curated by Clare Arni, Archana Hande and Suresh Jayaram from the collection of Claire Arni/Martin Henry.
Where: National Gallery of Modern Art
When: Until December 15, 10 am to 6 pm

05 Walk for a cause

A road rally (3 km walk) in observance of World Disability Day along with students from schools, PU-degree colleges, and corporate employees, kids from roughly seven to ten disability schools (Blind School, Deaf School, and Autism Special School). **Where: From Ramaiah hospital circle to Sastry Memorial Hall, Sanjaynagar**
When: December 7, 8:30 am

Highs and lows of rain that Cyclone Fengal dragged in

Cyclone pushes city's annual rainfall beyond average; with price hikes in veggies, damage to crops, it also brings challenges to farmers, authorities and residents

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Bengaluru breaks record set in 1977, recording 186.2 mm of rainfall on Tuesday

Cyclone Fengal, which caused widespread challenges across South India, played a surprising role in helping Bengaluru surpass its annual rainfall average. With 18.7 mm of rainfall recorded, Bengaluru has officially exceeded its annual average rainfall of 1077.6 mm, with the total now standing at 1083.4 mm for the year, according to a weather update shared on Platform X. "In a record-breaking observation, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) station at GKVK, Bengaluru recorded 186.2 mm of rainfall till 8:30 am on Tuesday, surpassing the city's highest 24-hour rainfall record of 178.9 mm, which was set on October 1, 1997."

Providing insights into the current weather situation, Dr N Puviarasan, a scientist at IMD Bengaluru, said, "The well-marked low-pressure area over east-central Arabian Sea and adjoining Coastal Karnataka has weakened into a low-pressure area over east-central and adjoining southeast Arabian Sea as of 8:30 am on Wednesday. The associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 5.8 km above mean sea level and is expected to move westward and dissipate within the next 24 hours." For Bengaluru, the forecast indicates partly cloudy skies with light rain likely. The city is expected to see maximum and minimum temperatures around 27°C and 18°C, respectively.

Crop damage across Karnataka

There could be a price rise of vegetables as cyclone effect was felt across more than 20 districts of Karnataka. The cyclone's widespread impact has left farmers, residents, and authorities grappling with significant challenges as they work towards recovery. Unseasonal rain has caused severe damage to crops, particularly in Dharwad, where approximately 12,000 hectares of mango, paddy, and groundnut crops have been affected. December is a critical period for pollination in mango cultivation, and the rains have disrupted the flowering process, impacting the upcoming mango harvest.

Groundnut crops, which were in the flowering stage, have also suffered losses, with nearly 30 per cent of farmers in distress. In Kolar, Kodagu, and other regions, harvested paddy crops left to dry in fields have been submerged, leaving farmers devastated. In Chikkamagaluru and Uttara Kannada, betel nut crops have been damaged, and coffee plantations have also suffered losses.

Concerns over price hikes in veggies

Homemakers said that the vegetable prices have been steadily climbing, and vendors are warning that they may increase even further in the coming weeks. Priya Ramesh, a homemaker, said, "With vegetable prices skyrocketing, managing the kitchen budget is becoming a real challenge. Tomatoes, which are a staple in almost every Indian household, are now costing Rs.50 per kilogram." It's not just tomatoes—other vegetables like onions, beans, and carrots are also becoming expensive, forcing us to rethink our weekly grocery shopping. We are having to cut down on certain vegetables and use alternatives, but even those are getting costly, she said. "It's frustrating because you can't compromise on nutrition, especially when feeding a family. The rising costs are stretching household budgets, making it difficult for middle-class families to manage expenses amidst other financial pressures."

Bengalurean gets national award for enhancing accessibility in 600+ public spaces

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Prateek Khandelwal, a resident of Harlur Road, Bengaluru, received the prestigious 'Sarvshresth Divyangjan Award' on Tuesday for his impactful accessibility initiatives across India from the President of India, Droupadi Murmu. The president presented National Awards to 33 outstanding individuals and institutions for their efforts in empowering persons with disabilities on Tuesday, in honour of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Among the awardees were Suresh Hanagavadi, founder of the Karnataka Haemophilia Society; Dr Suresh Hanagavadi, a renowned medical doctor and professor of pathology at JJM Medical College in Davangere; and G Manjudarshini, suffering from thalassaemia and sub-registrar posted at Srirangapatna, who were honoured with the 'Shresth Divyangjan Award.'

Ramp My City initiative

To address the accessibility challenges faced by people with disabilities, Khandelwal launched a social enterprise, Ramp My City. The initiative focuses on providing infrastructural solutions to make public spaces inclusive and accessible. "We started Ramp My City in 2020, and in just three years, we have transformed over 600 public places, impacting more than three lakh lives. The venture is entirely bootstrapped," he explained.

Over 600 public places have been made disabled-friendly across seven cities, including Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, New Delhi, Gurugram, Goa, and Kochi. These include offices, residences, schools, hospitals, public parks, restaurants, hotels, banks, ATMs, sports academies, and tourist spots, thanks to the efforts of Khandelwal. He has facilitated the installation of ramps, accessible toilets, designated parking spaces, Braille features, and signages, transforming over 300 locations in Bengaluru and 50+ sites each in Gurugram, Mumbai, Goa, and Pune.

Khandelwal shared that he suffered a spinal cord injury after falling from an under-construction building in 2014, leaving him paralysed and reliant on a wheelchair. He stated that in 2018, he made an effort to reconnect with his social circle, as people with disabilities often face exclusion. "Many avoid stepping out because society is neither accepting nor equipped with proper infrastructure. I wanted to live life on my own terms, travel, visit public places, and dine at restaurants. However, I found it incredibly challenging due to the significant lack of accessibility for people with disabilities."

> **Ramp My City initiative is entirely bootstrapped**
> – Prateek Khandelwal

He said that convincing building owners and stakeholders to include accessibility infrastructure is the biggest challenge, as unfortunately, there is little inclination to prioritise accessibility. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act mandates equal access for people of all disabilities in every public building. However, due to poor enforcement by the government, many building owners fail to comply. "To address this, we step in as solution providers, making public spaces accessible through CSR initiatives or philanthropic activities. We also collaborate with the government to secure permissions for these implementations," he added.

294 runaway children rescued in B'luru division alone this year

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The Railway Protection Force (RPF) under the initiative, 'Nanhe Faristey' has rescued 294 children (245 boys and 49 girls) in the Bengaluru division alone, up until November this year. These rescued children, according to the RPF officials, are all under the age 18, having run away due to family disputes, escaping for better opportunities or more daily wages.

The RPF has marked remarkable progress in child protection. Since the programme's inception in May 2018, the RPF has rescued 84,119 children across India, with 11,794 children being rescued across India last year.

An RPF official told BM, "These children, often minors, are typically found in vulnerable situations after leaving their homes due to family conflicts or in search of better daily wages. Many depart impulsively without informing their families, driven by disputes or aspirations for a better livelihood."

Anti-human trafficking units

Once the RPF receives information about a vulnerable child, a robust communication network is activated. Alerts are sent across RPF stations and officers, ensuring swift coordination. Children are often intercepted at railway platforms or on trains. If necessary, officers alert subsequent stations for immediate intervention.

In 2022, the RPF introduced Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) at railway stations, operating round the clock with teams that include female officers. These units proactively patrol platforms and trains, identifying children in distress.

"The anti-human trafficking units have significantly improved their operations, with the rescue of numerous minors from potential exploitation and safeguarding their futures," said the RPF official.

Post-rescue measures

After rescuing a child, the RPF provides immediate care, including food, medical aid, and child-friendly counselling. The District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, is alerted. The DCPU collaborates with child help desks located at major stations like Yeshwanthpura and Bengaluru.

These desks facilitate counselling and coordinate with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), which assesses the child's situation. The CWC may decide to reunite the child with their family, refer them for rehabilitation, or take alternative protective measures in extreme cases. Rehabilitation is rare but critical for children at risk of exploitation or harm within their family environment.

Proposal for additional help desks

The RPF officials have observed that many minors rescued are aged between 14 and 16 years, primarily from North and Northeast India. These children often leave their homes seeking better wages, fleeing regions where daily earnings are lower.

A recent proposal aims to establish additional child help desks at other major railway stations in the city.

"A proposal has been sent to establish these child help desks at other major railway stations including Bengaluru Cantonment railway station post-renovation," the RPF official stated, adding that such expansions will enhance the support infrastructure for vulnerable children.

The 'Nanhe Faristey' initiative has also extended its support to adults in distress, connecting them to NGOs for further assistance. It also addresses systemic issues like trafficking and exploitation.

24-year-old dies in scooter crash

A 24-year-old man was killed after reportedly losing control of his two-wheeler near the Nayandahalli underpass bridge early morning on Wednesday, under the Byatarayanapura traffic police station limits.

The deceased have been identified as Ayyanar, who was an auto driver and also a construction worker. He hailed from Tamil Nadu and was residing in Moodalapalya.

According to the police, the accident occurred at 1.15 am, below the Nayandahalli underpass bridge when Ayyanar was heading towards Nayandahalli.

He reportedly lost control due to rain, leading to the crash. He was also not wearing a helmet, police reported.

The body was sent to postmortem and the police registered a case and further investigations are underway. **BMB**

Woman killed, child hurt in hit-and-run

A 25-year-old homemaker, Bhanupriya, was killed, and her four-year-old son, Manoj were severely injured in a hit-and-run accident near Doddaballapur on Wednesday.

According to the police, Bhanupriya was returning home with Manoj after visiting her elder son's school, to submit some documents which were asked by the school. On their way back, a speeding car knocked them down.

The police reported that the driver was driving the car rashly, and at a high speed. While Bhanupriya died on the spot due to head injuries, Manoj was rushed to a hospital and is now undergoing treatment there.

Doddaballapur Rural Police have registered a hit-and-run case and are working to trace the driver using CCTV footage. Further investigations are underway. **BMB**

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Traffic tangles: Broken covers create road havoc

Damaged utility chamber covers on newly developed roads are causing traffic jams and accidents; citizens urge BBMP to ensure durable solutions

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Residents of Benson Town and nearby areas initially welcomed Bengaluru Smart City Limited's initiative to develop Millers Road and St John's Road, anticipating smoother commutes given the significant investment in the project. However, just two years after their development, motorists are now encountering issues such as broken utility chamber covers, creating challenges while travelling on these roads.

Residents report that they have repeatedly lodged complaints with BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) engineers over the past year, receiving assurances that the issues would be resolved. "II reported the issue of broken utility chamber covers on Millers Road to the BBMP engineer. The covers break whenever a heavy vehicle passes over them, which makes me believe that the BBMP is not using durable or quality materials for these covers," said Maria of Aam Aadmi Party, Shivajinagar.

The stretch of Millers Road between the Cantonment Railway Station underpass and St John's Road Junction comes under the Pulakeshinagar Assembly constituency. The residents are complaining that the BBMP engineer has not taken measures to fix the problem permanently. "We have been raising complaints with BBMP engineers about the broken utility chamber covers on Millers Road and St. John's Road. While the engineers promptly arrange for replacements, the covers used are substandard and cannot withstand even lightweight vehicles. This has led to traffic jams, and in one incident, a couple was injured when their vehicle skidded over a broken chamber cover," said Zubair Ali Burhan, a resident of Benson Town.

> **"Covers break whenever heavy vehicle passes over them, which makes me believe that BBMP is not using quality materials** – Maria, AAP

Coming down heavily on the sub-standard material used for the construction of utility chambers of Millers Road and St John's Road, a resident on the condition of anonymity, demanded the BBMP engineer select quality chamber covers instead of wasting taxpayers' money on sub-standard material. "I am shocked to see utility chamber covers broken on these roads. I urge the BBMP Chief Commissioner or Chief Engineer to take action against the supplier for providing substandard utility chamber covers and to hold the BBMP engineer accountable for approving these inadequate covers," the resident said.

Appealing to the BBMP authorities to provide quality covers for the utility chambers, Ashok Raju, an auto-rickshaw driver, said commuting on these roads during the peak hours has become dangerous for auto rickshaws. "Utility chambers without covers have become dangerous for us. It will be a great help if the BBMP authorities provide a permanent solution to this problem as early as possible for the benefit of unwary motorists," he said.

Meanwhile, BBMP Executive Engineer (Major Roads) Savitha said that she would look into the matter. "I got transferred to this area recently. I will fix the utility chamber problems on Millers Road and St John's Road," the Executive Engineer said.

Poor state of utility chamber on Millers Road

Urgent plea: Finish work before next rains

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bellandur's rejuvenation work shows that the authority has so far removed 22.69 lakh cubic metre of silt out of a total of 32.33 lakh cubic metre. In the report submitted to NGT, BDA claimed that 70% of the total estimated silt in diversion channels has been removed. However, rainwater impeded the desilting work, and wet and slushy soil conditions inside the lake have stalled desilting. Citizens argue poor planning is the real issue. They also underline that there is a new proposal to remove only 1.3 metre of silt due to insufficient funds despite deeper silt deposits and this is not as per NGT constituted Expert Committee directive.

"The monsoon excuse is farcical. Dewatering has been done before (in 70% completed area). Without an immediate resumption of rejuvenation, we'll lose this year too. If the project is shelved due to a lack of funds, Rs 100 crore spent so far will have been wasted," added Singh.

In the report submitted to NGT, BDA also claimed that 30% of wetland work at Koramangala and Agara Valley has been completed. Citizens contend that no significant progress beyond creating bunds is visible.

Where did the funds go?

Residents also raise concerns regarding fund misappropriation. In 2018, NGT had asked the state government to deposit Rs.500 crore in an escrow account for rejuvenation of Bellandur and Varthur lakes. It had ordered the setting up of a committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Santosh Hegde and scientist Professor TV Ramachandra of the Indian Institute of Sciences. Locals say while the committee was monitoring, funds were being judiciously used. However, the project was cash-strapped after the committee was dissolved in 2023.

"The government had stated that the Rs 500 crore escrow fund is already used up. While Rs 250 crore was spent on Sewage Treatment Plants, Rs 100 crore each allocated to Bellandur and Varthur Lake has been fully utilised. The remaining amount was spent in developing villages where silt was deposited in Mylasandra and Vithalsandra. However, invoices worth approximately Rs 12 crore remain unpaid, halting critical work. BBMP marshals' salaries are pending, undermining security and leading to illegal garbage dumping," said residents in the letter written to NGT. Citizens accuse agencies of inefficiency, with incomplete desilting and unchecked sewage inflow being major concerns.

Panel missing

Furthermore, directives from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to form a lake development monitoring committee have been ignored, exacerbating the project's challenges. "A monitoring committee must be formed, and the dredging of the lakes needs to be completed swiftly," said Jagadish Reddy, a social worker with the Bellandur-Varthur Lakes Development Committee. "With just five months before the next monsoon, there is a need for immediate intervention. Other issues such as removal of encroachments in Ambedkar Colony, protection of the lake's buffer zone, operationalisation of surveillance cameras, streetlights, and BBMP marshals should also be looked at to prevent further encroachments and waste dumping," said another resident.

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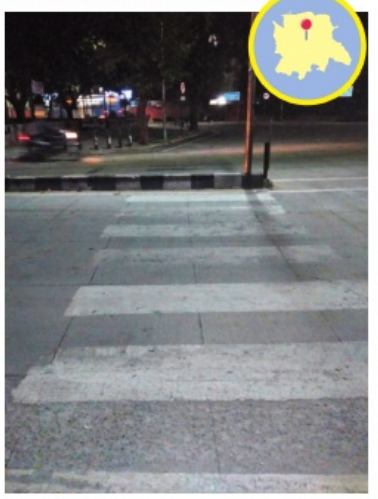
Crossing chaos

Circle Maramma Temple



Pedestrians face difficulty crossing the road near the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), opposite Circle Maramma Temple.

Broken stretch

Hebbal

The stretch between Esteem Mall and Hebbal Junction, a key entry to Bengaluru, is broken with large craters, making navigation tough for motorists.

Parked menace

Jayanagar

Two cars have been parked outside a property in NAL Layout, 3rd Main, 4 T Block, Jayanagar, for over a month.

Homebuyers pitch for Apartment Ownership Act

Draft of new Act still in final stages; once enacted it helps homebuyers get rights on common areas, resolve problems of forming associations

'Forming associations is the responsibility of the promoters, but not many promoters are taking measures to do so'

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The delay in enacting the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act has been causing a lot of problems for homebuyers. The proposed new Act is expected to benefit homebuyers who are facing problems in forming associations and getting the rights on common areas transferred from promoters to flat owners' associations.

"Homebuyers are suffering because of lack of time-bound action from authorities. We request state govt to enact new Act without delay – Dhananjaya Padmanabachar, Sanchalak, Karnataka Home Buyers Forum

Demands to resolve issues

Forming associations is the responsibility of the promoters, but not many promoters are taking measures to form associations of flat owners. Veteran Naval Commander Surendra said that no government department is ready to take up the responsibility. Demanding the government clear hurdles in transferring the common areas to the flat owners from the promoters, he said, "It is the responsibility of the promoter to form an association of flat owners."

Dhananjaya Padmanabachar, Sanchalak of the Karnataka Home Buyers Forum, demanded that the Karnataka RERA take measures for the implementation of norms to ensure homebuyers rights are protected. He said that homebuyers are suffering because of the lack of time-bound action from the authorities. "We request the state government to enact the new Act without any delay. We want the government to establish a separate department to take care of the registration of apartment owners' associations and facilitate the transfer of common areas to the apartment owners' associations," he said.

RERA's reply to complaint

Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC) sent a notice to the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) to look into a complaint lodged by Padmanabachar. He had complained to the KSHRC against the RERA for not taking measures to address the issues of transfer of common areas at apartment complexes and the registration of apartment flat owners associations.

The RERA, in a reply to the complaint, stated that the promoter shall enable the formation of an association or society or cooperative society, as the case may be, of the allottees, or a federation of the same, under the laws applicable. "Provided that in the absence of local laws, the association of allottees, by whatever name called, shall be formed within a period of three months of the majority of allottees having booked their flat or apartment or building, as the case may be in the project," the reply from RERA read.

The RERA said that the Urban Development Department has embarked on enacting the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act by superseding the existing said Act, 1972 and the Karnataka Ownership Flats Act, 1972. "The RERA did not issue any guidelines or a circular on the registration of apartment owners associations since the draft of the new Act is in the final stages. The RERA will consider issuing guidelines or circulars, if required, only after the new Act comes into effect."

Citizens may soon pay more for Cauvery water

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Amid increasing prices for essential goods and services, Bengaluru residents may soon face a hike in Cauvery water tariffs. The state government is preparing for this adjustment, and the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has sought suggestions and support from city representatives for the revised tariff proposal. A meeting chaired by the Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar is expected soon, where the proposal will be discussed further. Sources indicated that BWSSB is pressing for unanimous backing to ensure its financial sustainability and continued service delivery to Bengaluru.

BWSSB relies heavily on water tariffs as its primary source of income. It supplies

BWSSB supplies water to nearly 1.5 crore people in Bengaluru but is grappling with revenue shortfalls

water to nearly 1.5 crore people in Bengaluru but is grappling with revenue shortfalls. Its monthly expenses exceed the income generated, making a tariff hike "essential for the board's survival," according to the letter.

A BWSSB official stated, "We supply Cauvery water to 10.5 lakh houses in Bengaluru, generating a revenue of Rs 110 crore through water bills. However, the power bills have surged from approximately Rs 88 crore to Rs 90 crore, leaving us with the majority of expenses dedicated solely to power bills."

The letter outlines the severe financial strain faced by the BWSSB for electricity & maintenance costs, salaries, etc. These rising costs have pushed the board's monthly expenses and the operational launch of the Cauvery Stage V project has further compounded the situation, increasing total monthly costs to Rs 210 crore. Over the next five years, this deficit is projected to reach a staggering Rs 4,860 crore, threatening the board's capacity to implement essential new projects critical for Bengaluru's water supply needs.

"According to regulations, officials have the provision to revise the tariff once every three years. However, there has been no tariff hike since 2014. During a recent visit, we briefed Bengaluru Development Minister DKS about the financial situation of BWSSB. He has assured us that he will respond," the BWSSB official added.

Advocates write to CJI about issues with HC Chief Justice

Legal professionals at the Karnataka High Court, including prominent Bar members, have expressed deep concerns regarding the Chief Justice's administrative and judicial performance. A formal representation to India's Chief Justice, submitted by the advocates, is highlighting issues of inefficiency and uneven work allocation, among other institutional challenges.

Over 100 advocates endorsed the document, which was presented by TG Ravi, who serves as General Secretary of the Advocates' Association, Bengaluru. They emphasised their objective is purely institutional to "restore the glory of the High Court and bring back the fast-eroding public confidence in the institution."

The document specifically addresses the Chief Justice's timekeeping practices. "The Chief Justice has not commenced his court on time, which is 10:30 am, on any day for the past several months. He has also risen much earlier than 4:45 pm on every single day for the past several months," stated the document. This has negatively impacted case resolution, particularly urgent matters like PILs, Writ Appeals and green benches. The document also criticised the management of judicial rosters and judge assignments to Kalaburagi and Dharwad benches, noting the uneven distribution of duties among judges.

The representation also raised serious concerns about administrative corruption, stating, "There is large-scale corruption in the office, with huge money being demanded for getting matters listed before a particular bench, getting listed on the same day, or avoiding the listing of matters for long periods." The advocates requested a confidential investigation, stating, "We have great faith in the system and, as officers of the court, believe it to be our bounden duty to bring to your notice the anomalies in the system, so that they can be set right."

–Rachana Ramesh

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Fuel burning, traffic has made city air toxic: Report

Greenpeace India urges shift to eco-friendly transit for better health after study reveals alarming nitrogen oxide levels in Bengaluru

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The latest report by Greenpeace India, "Beyond North India: NO_2 Pollution and Health Risks in Seven Major Indian Cities", reveals alarming levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) pollution in Bengaluru. Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) is a near-invisible toxic gas closely linked to traffic and fuel burning, common in urban areas. Vehicles and energy generation from fossil fuels are important sources of NO_2.

The WHO (World Health Organisation) recommends an annual NO2 concentration of no more than 10 µg/m³, while the NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards) limit is 40 µg/m³. In 2023, Bengaluru's 13 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (CAAQM) stations recorded varying levels of air quality. The highest NO2 levels were measured at City Railway Station, which exceeded WHO guidelines for over 80% of the year. Additionally, BTM Layout and Silk Board air quality monitoring stations were among the city's most polluted. Exposure to NO2 poses a serious health risk to residents, especially with such frequently high concentrations in public spaces.

"This report underscores a crucial truth: air pollution is not limited to Delhi or North India. The transportation sector is the largest contributor to high NO_2 levels across cities in India. As cities grow, the rise in private vehicles worsens air quality and jeopardises public health. To tackle this, we need a fundamental shift towards a sustainable, efficient public transportation system. Investing in cleaner, more accessible transport options is not just an environmental necessity—it's an urgent public health imperative. The government must prioritise cleaner mobility solutions to ensure a healthier future," said Selomi Garniak, Climate Justice Campaigner at Greenpeace India.

India's response to the air pollution crisis, particularly NO2 pollution, falls woefully short of global health standards, the report noted. India's Air pollution Standards (NAAQS) are far less stringent than WHO guidelines. Despite significant advancements in understanding the health risks posed by air pollution, especially at low exposure levels, India has not updated its NAAQS for 15 years. This outdated regulatory framework fails to protect public health adequately, leaving millions vulnerable to the severe consequences of air pollution.

"Air pollution is a growing public health threat in India, requiring bold, innovative solutions. One such solution is an affordable 'Clean Air Concession' for public transportation. By making mass transit more accessible, this policy can encourage people to leave their cars behind, reducing congestion and harmful emissions. This simple measure can significantly improve air quality, and public health, and create more inclusive, healthier cities," said Aakiz Farooq, Mobility Campaigner at Greenpeace India.

City Railway Station exceeded WHO No2 limits for over 80% of 2023, with BTM Layout and Silk Board showing high pollution levels

"Air pollution is not limited to Delhi or North India. Transportation sector is largest contributor to high NO2 levels across cities in India
– Selomi G, Greenpeace

NO_2 levels exceed health guidelines

- In 2023, annual NO_2 concentrations exceeded the WHO health-based guideline at all 13 government-monitored Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring stations (CAAQM). The highest concentrations were recorded at the City Railway Station monitoring station.
- Monitoring stations that exceeded the WHO health guidelines in 2023 were located near five schools.
- In 2023, daily average NO_2 concentrations were higher than the WHO daily guideline at the City Railway Station for 80% of days in the year.
- Over the last five years, trends in NO_2 concentrations from ground-level monitors show no significant improvement in air quality.
- Road transport is the second-largest source of NO2 emissions in Bengaluru, accounting for 20% of emissions in the EDGAR emission inventory.

Poor air quality in major Indian cities is a serious public health concern. To address this, Greenpeace India recommended a region-specific approach for cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Pune. In addition to revising NAAQS, the focus should be on strengthening healthcare services to diagnose air pollution-related conditions and implementing a comprehensive health advisory system with public education and timely alerts during high pollution periods. Vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, pregnant women, outdoor workers, and those with pre-existing conditions, should receive prioritised health interventions. Local governments should focus on significantly reducing vehicular emissions by s enhancing public transport, including fare-free schemes for women.

Too loud, too speedy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are removed and returned to the vehicle owners after the modifications are reversed, he added. Highways like the KIAL stretch are particularly vulnerable due to sparse traffic, making them popular among thrill-seeking bikers.

1,344 cases for use of defective silencers

Special drives on highways are conducted every weekend and according to official data from Bengaluru traffic police, there has been a significant rise in cases of defective silencers in 2024.

A total of 1,344 cases registered until November in the city, compared to just 262 cases in 2023. Speeding remains the dominant traffic violation in Bengaluru, with numerous accidents reported due to this. The combination of modified vehicles and reckless speeds poses severe safety risks, both for the violators and other road users

Why highways

Highways are often chosen by high-end bikers due to their relatively open stretches and fewer traffic signals, providing an opportunity for speeding and performing stunts. According to Kuldeep Kumar Jain, Deputy Commissioner of Police Traffic (East), many youngsters are drawn to high-end bikes and defective silencers that produce loud noises.

"High-end bikers often choose highways like the Airport Road or NICE Road, which are comparatively emptier, to accelerate and perform zig-zag stunts, aiming to grab attention with the sound it creates," he said, adding that this behaviour is frequently driven by the urge to showcase their stunts on social media platforms. He further emphasised that any modifications to the existing vehicles, whether two-wheelers or four-wheelers, are illegal under the Indian Motor Vehicle (IMV) act rules and will attract strict legal action.

Four motorcycles were seized on KIAL Road for noise and speeding. Additionally, 55 speeding cases were booked by Bengaluru traffic police

Speed-breakers installed on IRR blackspots to curb accidents

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In an initiative to address the accidents in one of the localities, BPAC took a step towards improving road safety. On 25 November, scientific speed humps were installed at two high-risk blackspots on the Intermediate Ring Road (IRR) by the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) Traffic Engineering Cell (East) and its contractors. These blackspots, at the Defence Land curve near Indiranagar and near the Ultraviolette Hangar Showroom in Domlur, had been the site of several accidents. This follows six months of work involving crash data analysis, drawing preparation, and follow-ups with BBMP TEC in coordination with Bengaluru Traffic Police.

In Ulsoor limits alone, the IRR has five blackspots. From January to September, 16 accidents were recorded at these locations, resulting in five deaths. Last year, four fatal accidents occurred at these same spots due to overspeeding. This effort was undertaken to reduce accidents and save lives.

Priyanka Krishnan, Research and Program Associate, BMOBILE, BPAC, said, "The 'IRR Street: Standstill to Active' project by Bangalore Political Action Committee under the BMOBILE program started over a year ago to improve the reliability of buses, walkability and road safety on 7.5km stretch of Inner Ring Road between Indiranagar and Koramangala. As part of this, in May, we presented our recommendations to BTP in a meeting organised by the Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) attended by inspectors and sub-inspectors of 5 Traffic Police stations (Jeevanbhima Nagar, Ulsoor, Ashoknagar, Adugodi and Madiwala). In this meeting, the Ulsoor station raised the concern of 5 blackspots on IRR requiring traffic calming elements to reduce fatalities due to overspeeding."

BPAC then organised a joint inspection along with BBMP Traffic Engineering Cell & Bengaluru Traffic Police on IRR to inspect stretches and junctions on IRR. "FIRs registered in Ulsoor Traffic Police station showed an alarming 5 fatalities in 16 accidents registered until September and 4 fatal accidents registered in 2023 in the same spots. In a week after the inspection in May itself, we provided drawings of road markings and traffic calming elements for ease of reference of interventions and locations. By June end, rumble strips were implemented in most of the recommended locations. The internal process and tender finalisation for speed humps and raised crossings execution took time. After six months of persistent follow-up, we are happy that two-speed humps were executed on November 25 by BBMP TEC East and a contractor at the defence land curve towards Indiranagar and near Ultraviolette Hangar showroom, opposite Hero Honda bus stop, Domlur. BTP has installed warning sign boards before the newly executed speed humps," added Krishnan.

Installation of speed humps in Domlur

"We look forward to the execution of one more speed hump on IRR shortly. This is a great example of PPP (Public Private Partnership), and BPAC looks forward to working with the government on more initiatives," added Krishnan.

Does pollution board have enough to dole funds out?

Experts think not as govt orders it to give ₹426 cr to forest dept despite its staff shortage

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The money KSPCB raises should be used for its activities such as tackling pollution, experts say

The state government's order to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to transfer Rs 426 crore to aid multiple forest department projects has not gone down well with city-based environmentalists and experts.

Out of the total Rs 426 crore, Rs 300 crore is for railway barricade work in various districts of the state to prevent human-elephant conflict, Rs 126 crore is for the K-Shore project to make Karnataka's 320-km coast plastic-free. According to a senior official of KSPCB, no decision so far has been taken by the board on this request.

"Any decision on release of funds as requested by the government will be taken only during our board meeting. So far, no decision has been taken," said the official.

The official also informed BM that the proposal to disburse Rs 300 crore for the railway barricade project to the Karnataka Forest Department was brought up in the Board's last meeting. However, it was not approved. "If a decision is taken in the board meeting to release these funds, we will disburse them. However, if board members do not agree, the money will not be released," said the KSPCB official.

Sort out staff crunch

Civic activists and environmentalists underscore the issue of staff crunch at KSPCB. They say while the board is working with less than 50% of staff strength, giving away money to other departments is absurd.

"How can the board make polluters pay when it is reeling under staff crunch and is not well equipped? The money that KSPCB raises for its expenditure should be used for its activities, given the city is reeling under various environmental issues. Our lakes are polluted, air quality index and vehicular emission need improvement, and plastic pollution, among many other forms of pollution, is rampant. Instead of giving away this fund to the forest department, the money should be spent on improving the quality of life of the citizens," said a city-based environmentalist.

Notably, KSPCB, in a report submitted to the Central Pollution Control Board in March this year, had admitted that nearly 60% of the total sanctioned staff posts in the agency are unoccupied. As per the report, out of 723 sanctioned posts in KSPCB, 433 were lying vacant. The situation was dire under the scientific staff category with 73% vacancies. While the total number of sanctioned posts under the scientific staff category in KSPCB is 142, only 38 posts were occupied.

Similarly, while the total sanctioned posts under the technical staff category are 278, 134 were found to be vacant (48%). The total sanctioned posts under the non-technical staff category is 303 and 192 are vacant; 111 are occupied.

The Board, in its report, has also clarified that the state government has accorded permission for the recruitment of 152 posts of assistant environmental officers, assistant scientific officers, scientific assistants, law assistants, first-division assistants, and second-division assistants. "The recruitment process was on hold not due to cash crunch but due to the model code of conduct for Lok Sabha Elections-2024 and Karnataka MLC elections. At present, the recruitment process is in progress," said the KSPCB official.

The report submitted by KSPCB also underlines that laboratories across the state have a shortage of equipment. As per the report, 183 equipment including PM10 and PM2.5 samplers, monitoring kits, and analyzers, are required but unavailable.

Satellites to keep eye on forest encroachment

The State Forest department is tapping satellites to keep an eye on encroachers through the Forest Cover Change Alert System. Developed in collaboration with the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre (KSRSAC), the system employs artificial intelligence (AI) and satellite imagery to monitor forest boundaries. It provides real-time alerts when changes in forest cover are detected. Since its launch in July, the system has issued 167 alerts, enabling authorities to respond promptly to illegal deforestation and encroachments.

How does the system work?

The system uses geospatial algorithms to analyse satellite imagery from optical and microwave sensors. Any alteration in forest cover within a 21-day window is flagged, and an alert is sent to the relevant forest division. Field officers receive geo-referenced coordinates, allowing them to verify the changes on the ground and take action. The system even records tree-cutting incidents and other encroachments within designated forest boundaries. Forest and Ecology Minister Eshwar B Khandre has instructed officials to implement the system rigorously, ensuring strict action against encroachments and maintaining a zero-tolerance policy.

AI system provides real-time alerts when changes in forest cover are detected

Khandre said, "All unauthorised encroachments occurring after 2015, except those under legal exemptions or pending litigation, must be removed using this satellite-based evidence. Encroachment for subsistence purposes on less than three acres prior to 2015, protected under the Forest Rights Act, will not face immediate action..." **-Sridhar Vivan**

ISRO reschedules Proba-3 launch after detecting 'anomaly'

The ISRO on Wednesday announced rescheduling the launch of a foreign vendor satellite, Proba-3 for December 5 following the detection of an anomaly minutes before the launch.

The Bengaluru-headquartered space agency had originally planned to launch European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 at 4.08 pm on Wednesday from the spaceport here.

"As per the ESA's request, the launch of PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 has been rescheduled as follows: Date: 05th December 2024 Time: 16:04" (4.04 pm), the space agency said in its latest update. The revised launch was earlier fixed at 4.12 pm on Thursday.

ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher said the anomaly occurred in the redundant propulsion system of the Coronagraph spacecraft which was onboard the PSLVC59 mission and currently the scientists were involved in identifying the cause of the incident.

"During Proba3's pre-launch preparations at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in India, an anomaly in the redundant propulsion system of the Coronagraph Spacecraft occurred. This propulsion system is part of the attitude and orbit control subsystem of the satellite and used to maintain orientation and pointing in space." Aschbacher said in a social media post.

"The anomaly is currently under detailed investigation. The use of a software solution by the mission control team at @ESA's ESEC centre at Redu, Belgium is being evaluated to allow a launch on Thursday 5 December at 11:34 CET (10:34 GMT, 16:04 local time)." he said .

Dubbed as world's first initiative of its kind, the Proba-3 (Project for Onboard Anatomy) consists of two satellites -- Coronagraph (310kgs) and Occulter (240kgs) -- in which two spacecraft would fly together as one, maintaining precise formation down to a single millimetre to study the Corona, the Sun's outer atmosphere.

The PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 Mission, the 61st flight of PSLV, set to carry ESA's PROBA-3 satellites

The European Space Agency (ESA) said the Corona is much hotter than the Sun itself and it is where space weather originates. It is also a topic of widespread scientific and practical interest.

Proba-3 is a technology demonstration mission funded via the General Support Technology Programme. The instruments onboard the satellites would travel closer to the solar rim for up to six hours at a time and each spacecraft would take up approximately a 19-hour orbit around the Earth.

NewSpace India Ltd, the commercial arm of ISRO has bagged the order from the ESA.

The 25-hour countdown was progressing smoothly since it commenced on Tuesday at 3.08 pm and scientists at the spaceport here have been working on preliminary works for the launch. 'Probas' is a Latin word, meaning 'Let's try'.

The mission objective is to demonstrate precise formation flying and the two spacecraft inside the satellites would be launched together in a stacked configuration after the desired orbit level is reached.

PSLV-C59 is a 44.5 metre tall rocket and is on its 61st flight and the 26th with the PSLV-XL variant which is normally used to place heavy satellites.

The two satellites (Coronagraph and Occulter) would undertake an 18-minute journey to reach the desired orbit. After reaching the preparatory conditions, the two spacecraft would fly 150 metres apart (as one large satellite structure) in tandem so that the 'Occulter' spacecraft would block out the solar disk of the sun enabling 'Coronagraph' to study the corona of the Sun or the surrounding atmosphere, for scientific observation. **-PTI**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Netravati Langati W/o, Nagaraja Gudi R/o No 6 Alwandi Koppal Karnataka 583226 have changed my name to Netravati Gudi for all purposes.

I, SRINIVASA P. H. S/o Hari Rao, Residing at No.16, Teachers Layout, 1st Cross, J B Kaval, M.S.Palya, Bengaluru-560097, Have changed my name to SRINIVAS P. H. S/o.Hari Rao Vide affidavit dated 04.12.2024 sworn before Notary Chandrakala, Bengaluru.

I, Afser Pasha S/o Anwar Pasha R/o 176, 3rd cross, Siddiqnagar, B lyt, Banimantap, Mysuru 570019 present camp Bengaluru, have changed my name to Afsar Pasha Affidavit Dt.04/12/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Kumari Rajan D/o Ajay Kumar DOB 02-03-1996 R/o SLV Magnum Apartment, Block B,Flat No.216, 3rd Cross, Kodichikkanahalli, Bengaluru 560076, have changed my name from Rajan to Kumari Rajan.

I, GIRIJALAKSHMI THYAGARAJA R/at No.282/B, 38th Cross, 8th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560082 have changed my name to DOMMALKOTI RAMAMURTHY GIRIJALAKSHMI vide affidavit dated: 4/12/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, Vinayakumar L R S/o, Rudresh R/o Linganahalli Dodballapura Bengaluru Rural Pin 561203 have changed my name to Vinaykumar L R for all purposes.

I Abdul Subhan s/o Abdul Rahiman R/o No. 329/1 Syed Block Annasandra Palya HAL Post Bangalore 560017 , my Passport No.K3201630 is provided with Surname as ABDUL RAHIMAN, I declare i will be using name ABDUL SUBHAN for all purposes without surname.

I Kesarkar Rukmini W/O, Janardhan Eashwar R/o , Sri Amba Bhavani Nilaya, 97/1 2nd Cross Muniswammappa Road, Subbanapalya, Maruthi Sevanagar Blr-560033 have changed my name to Rukmini Janardhan.

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Nanjundaiah S., Principal of Gurukul International School, Magadi Road, was felicitated with the Academic Achievement Award at the FAP National Programme organized in collaboration with Chandigarh University and CAMS. CAMS Honourable President Puttanna, CAMS Secretary D. Shashikumar and Dr. Jagajithsingh were present on the occasion.

HEALTH TIP: Tomatoes have substances called lutein and zeaxanthin that may help protect your eyes from blue light from devices

Monitoring blood sugar is critical for diabetes management, allowing the doctor to make adjustments in treatment

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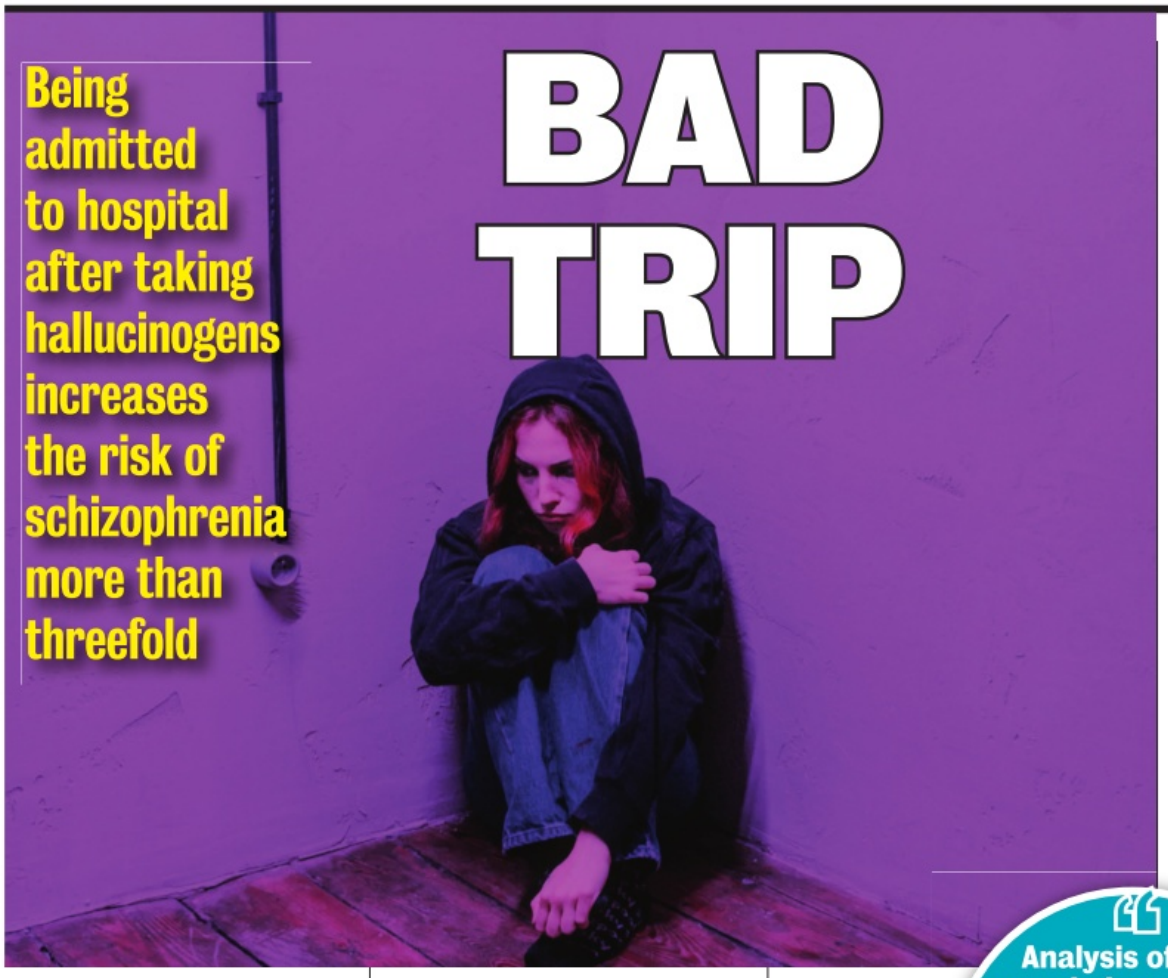
BAD TRIP

Being admitted to hospital after taking hallucinogens increases the risk of schizophrenia more than threefold



A link between taking hallucinogenic drugs and psychosis has long been suspected. Given the recent increase in people taking these drugs, a research group in Canada wanted to know if there was an association between people going to hospital because of problems related to these drugs and subsequent mental ill health – specifically, schizophrenia spectrum disorder.

Schizophrenia spectrum disorder, or SSD, is defined as either schizophrenia itself or "schizoaffective disorder" – a condition with similar symptoms to schizophrenia (such as hallucinations and delusions), but including depression or mania.

This was a retrospective study where hospital records of people living in Ontario were examined from the years 2008 to 2021. Over 5,000 people were found to have visited the emergency department for a reason related to hallucinogen use.

Of these, 208 (4%) were subsequently found to develop SSD within three years. After taking age and sex into account, this equated to a 21-fold increase in the chances of developing SSD.

However, after the data was further adjusted to take into account other mental health factors and other drug use, the increased likelihood of developing SSD dropped to 3.5-fold – which is still a considerable increase in risk.

Alcohol is a much bigger risk factor

Further analysis of the data revealed that emergency department visits because of problems related to alcohol use resulted in a 4.7-fold risk of developing SSD. In contrast, visits to the emergency department for cannabis use resulted in a 1.5-fold increased risk. So alcohol-related visits were more likely to result in a diagnosis of SSD than hallucinogens, with visits associated with cannabis the least likely to result in an SSD in the next three years.

Much has been said about how dangerous certain drugs are, but this was often done without looking at all the evidence. In 2009, Professor David Nutt, then the UK government's drugs adviser, published a rating of drug dangers – not only danger to the user but also to others.

Controversially, it was revealed that alcohol, despite being freely available, was the most dangerous drug, followed by heroin and crack cocaine. LSD and magic mushrooms (both hallucinogens) were found to be at the opposite end of the scale – and of relatively little danger. If the Canadian study holds true, then hallucinogens may need to be nudged slightly higher up the danger scale.

The first study to definitively show a link between cannabis use and schizophrenia was conducted in 1987 and examined 45,000 Swedish soldiers. They found that those soldiers with high cannabis use (more than 50 uses) had a six-fold greater chance of developing schizophrenia over 15 years.

It is unclear why the Canadian study's risk for cannabis is so low (1.47) compared with the findings from the Swedish study, but it might be related to differences in cannabis use and length of follow-up period (three years versus 15 years).

> **Analysis of data revealed emergency department visits because of problems related to alcohol use resulted in a 4.7-fold risk of developing SSD**

Hallucinogens to treat psychiatric conditions

There is a lot of excitement among the psychiatric community about recent clinical trials showing that LSD and psilocybin could be useful for treating several psychiatric conditions.

The doses used in these trials are, presumably, similar to those used by illicit drug users as both groups of users need to achieve a psychoactive effect. The main difference may be in frequency of use. For example, a single dose of psilocybin can improve depression symptoms for up to three months in those who haven't responded to other treatments. Similarly, a single dose of LSD can reduce anxiety for up to 16 weeks. Illicit users would take these drugs more often.

There is little evidence to suggest that occasional clinical use of hallucinogens has long-term harms. Nevertheless, those patients being treated with hallucinogens should be followed for ten or more years to ensure that these treatments are safe.

One of the limitations of the Canadian study is that it has no details on the types of hallucinogens taken. Another issue is that these drugs, being illicit, may well have had contaminants cut into them, so it's unclear what exactly these patients had taken.

Despite these drawbacks, this study does pose important questions about the use of hallucinogens in the clinic and provides further evidence of the dangers of alcohol abuse.

(By Colin Davidson, University of Central Lancashire, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Numbers processed in deep part of brain, ability possibly acquired early in evolution: Study

A new study shows that processing numbers could be happening in a region deep within the brain indicating that humans might have acquired the ability early during evolution.

Researchers from Oregon Health and Science University, U.S, recruited 13 people with epilepsy and asked questions that made them think about numbers as symbols (such as '3'), as words ('three') and as concepts (a series of three dots). The patients were undergoing a surgical procedure to locate the originating point of seizures. As the patients responded, the team observed activity happening in the putamen -- a part of the cerebrum and located deep within the brain.

The putamen is usually related to functions such as movement and cognition, but rarely to higher-level aspects of human intelligence like solving calculus, the researchers explained.

Consciousness and abstract thought are typically attributed to the cerebral cortex (part of the cerebrum), which evolved later in human evolution and forms the brain's outer layer, they added.

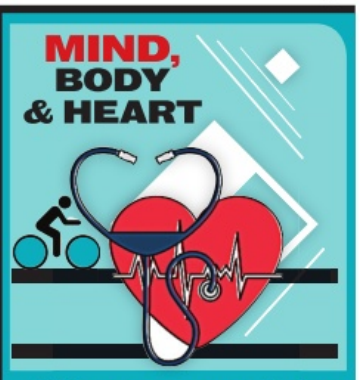
Abstract thought involves reasoning about concepts not linked to the physical world, including solving a mathematical problem.

"That likely means the human ability to process numbers is something that we acquired early during evolution," Ahmed Raslan, a professor and chair of neurological surgery at Oregon Health and Science University and senior author of the study published in PLoS ONE, said.

"There is something deeper in the brain that gives us this capacity to leap to where we are today," Raslan said.

The findings suggest possibilities for brain regions that could be tapped into for improving learning among people who struggle to understand and interpret mathematics, the authors said.

In the epilepsy patients, the team also detected activity in regions of the brain that process what is seen and heard, along with the parietal lobe, located at the top-rear and known to be involved while performing mathematical operations. **-PTI**



All you need to know about...

Sepsis detection

Non-invasive strategy
Canadian researchers have in a study on Wednesday revealed the potential of a non-invasive strategy to detect sepsis early.

What is sepsis
Sepsis is a dysregulated response to infection that can result in life-threatening organ failure if treatment is delayed. Often clinicians lack methods for early detection of the life-threatening emergency that claims millions globally each year.

Imaging tests
Researchers from the Western University, in Ontario, Canada, showed that non-invasive imaging tests that can assess blood flow through skeletal muscle may help in early detection. "The study suggests that while the brain is partly protected in early sepsis, the skeletal muscle could be an early target for detecting changes in microhemodynamics," said the team in the paper published in The FASEB Journal.

How is it managed
Currently, sepsis is managed by early administration of antibiotics and vasopressors. These medications help manage the infection and systemic hypotension (low blood pressure) and help increase the survival rate. However, there is currently a lack of tools that are sensitive to the onset of sepsis to recognise the condition and triage patients for early intervention.

Methods
In the study, the team used imaging methods -- called hyperspectral near-infrared spectroscopy and diffuse correlation spectroscopy -- used at the bedside to monitor tissue conditions.

Leading cause of death
"Sepsis is a leading cause of death around the world that disproportionately affects vulnerable populations and those in low-resource settings," said one of the authors of the study. **-IANS**

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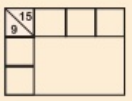
@BangaloreMirror

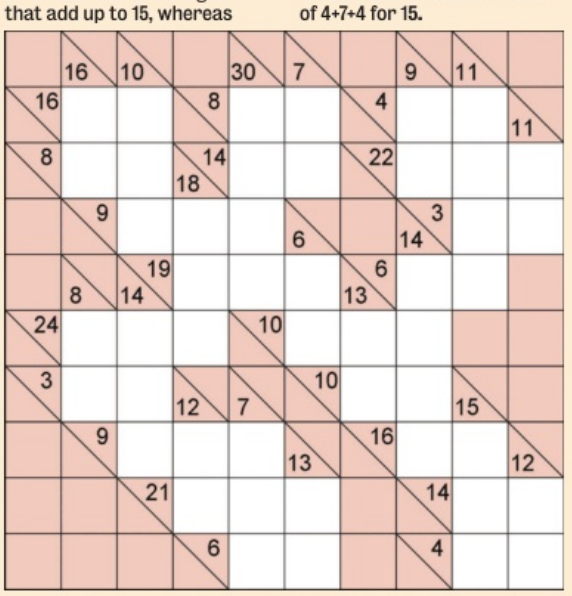
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

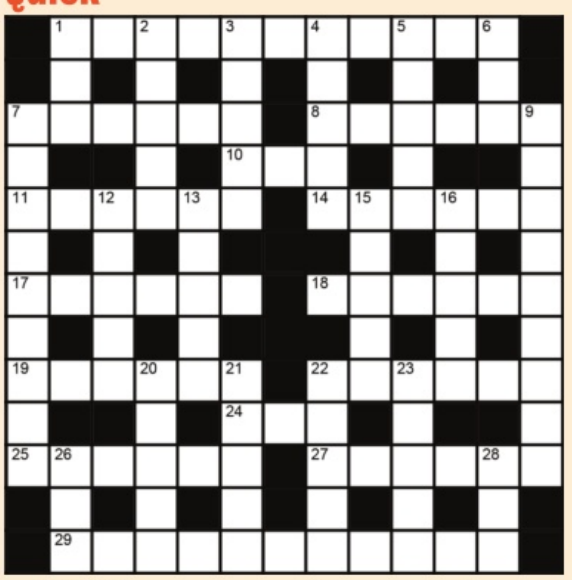


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 A prying or an inquisitive person? (5,6)
7 Equipping with weapons (6)
8 NW American state (6)
10 Greek goddess of dawn (3)
11 More benevolent (6)
14 Mistake (4-2)
17 Musical direction meaning 'lively' (6)
18 Physical injury (6)
19 Fine sword (6)
22 Play is work for them! (6)
24 Vitality (3)
25 Wholly (2,4)
27 Copper, nickel, etc (6)
29 Desertion or giving up usage of (11)

DOWN

1 Conjunction meaning "and not" (3)
2 Drew back or recoiled (5)
3 German or Austrian rifleman–"gayer" anagram? (5)
4 Collect or pile up (5)
5 Army colour (5)
6 Rep. of Korea (3)
7 River that crosses paths with the South Pennar river at Nandi Hills (9)
9 Evaluates or assesses; prices (9)
12 Belly button (5)
13 Spanish hero and old time movie? (2,3)
15 Words of a song (5)
16 Walt Disney character (5)
20 Deadly African disease (5)
21 Egg-shaped body (5)
22 Jordanian capital (5)
23 Chapter heading (5)
26 BJP and their allies? (3)
28 Allow or rent (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS G

QP QC W EQUV CVWCHUQUM EHL IHX PH PBQUN HE PBHCV ZV DHRV.

Linemaro

Do you follow Manchester?
I see us United

Mindchow

Happiness can be found in the darkest of times if one only remembers to turn on the light

Joke of the day

I only drink on special occasions...
luckily for me, I just broke my record for consecutive days alive today

Loop

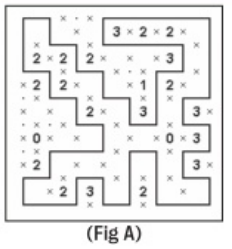
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

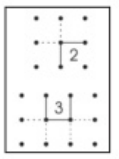
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

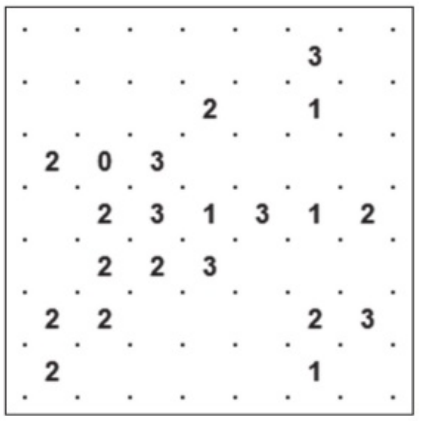
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



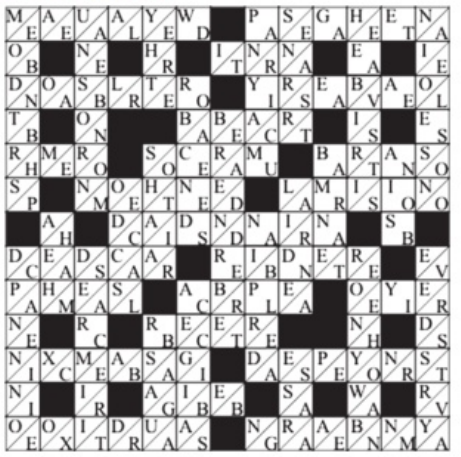
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



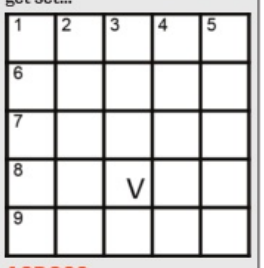
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

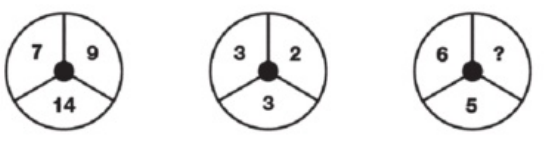
1 Romps; 6 Lingo (3,2); 7 Maine; 8 V Alan; 9 N leek

DOWN

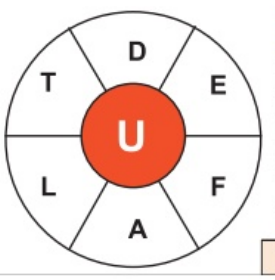
1 Lank P; 2 Norma; 3 Go vie; 4 Maine; 5 Sell N

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; 13 Good; 15 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		8			1		3	
	3			2	5	4		
	6			4				2
8			9				5	3
5	2				7			6
6				5			7	
		2	4	3			1	
	1		2			3		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

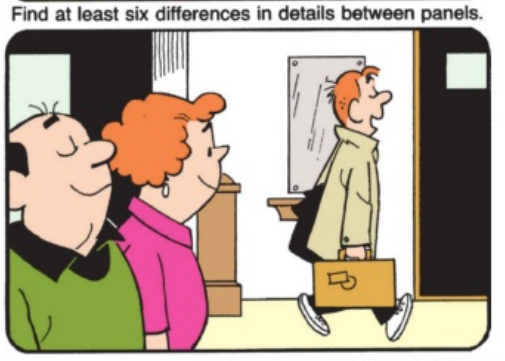
Easy = 3
1 3 8 9

Medium = 41
3 3 4 8

Hard = 52
2 7 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



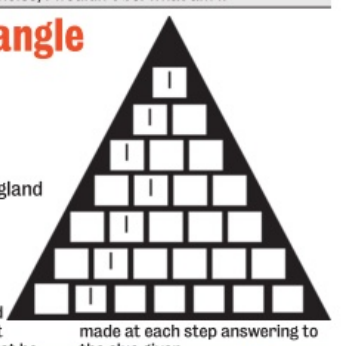
Differences: 1. Man is thinner. 2. Mirror is smaller. 3. Boy is taller. 4. Woman's hair is different. 5. Button is added to sleeve. 6. Mouth is closed.

Riddler

I'm full of keys whenever I'm made, I came about wooden when the Renaissance played. Hundreds of years later, I was divided and two new keys to me were provided. Then in 1760, and that's forty years later three keys were added by Florio, Gedney, and Potter. Around the 80's of the century mentioned I was used by Mozart and Haydn. Over the years, new keys were gained in the 1830's, Beethoven used me to entertain. Near the end of the 1800's, or the 19th century I was used by Brahms, Strauss, and Tchaikovsky. Now, modern renditions are made of me. Without my holes, I wouldn't be. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Egoistic letter
2 Less more
3 Election winners
4 Noises
5 Breezes
6 Repudiate
7 Royal castle in England

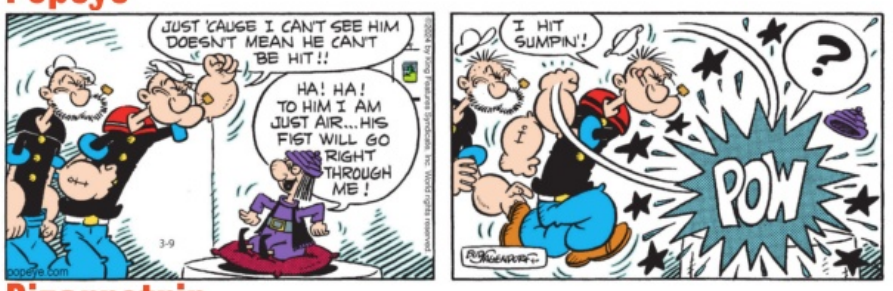


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


JUST 'CAUSE I CAN'T SEE HIM DOESN'T MEAN HE CAN'T BE HIT!!
HA! HA! TO HIM I AM JUST AIR...HIS FIST WILL GO RIGHT THROUGH ME!
I HIT SUMPIN'!
POW
?

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

I'M GETTING SO NERVOUS! I'M SO USED TO BEING BACKSTAGE HELPING! NOT PERFORMING!
YOU DID GREAT IN PRACTICE!
YOU'LL BE EVEN BETTER WHEN THE WARM LIGHTS ARE ON YOU.
THE ROAR OF THE CROWD'S APPLAUSE WILL GET YOUR HEART RATE GOING!
NEVER MIND. I'M NOT DOING THIS.
WHAT?! WE GO ON IN TWENTY MINUTES!

Crankshaft

I WAS JUST ADMIRING YOUR BANNED BOOKS DISPLAY.
I'M COVERING 'FAHRENHEIT 451' IN MY AMERICAN LIT CLASS THIS SEMESTER.
BANNED BOOKS
GET THEM BEFORE THEY'RE BURNED!
NOT ONLY DO I HAVE THIS DISPLAY...
BUT I ALSO HAVE A BANNED BOOK CLUB!
BANNED BOOKS
GET THEM BEFORE THEY'RE BURNED!

Mutts

WELL, THAT'S IT! VACATION'S OVER! TIME TO GO HOME!
WAH! BUT I DON'T WANT TO STOP LYING AROUND, SHOAKING UP THE SUN AND DOING ABSHOLUTELY NOTHING!!! WAH!
BUT MOOCH— THAT'S WHAT YOU DO AT HOME!
YOU'RE RIGHT! LET'S GO!
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you might consider a change in location, but it's advised to postpone decisions related to migration for now. You must also avoid making business investments today. By the evening, with guidance from an elder, you may bring this messy situation under control.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, your patience will be a strong asset. Meditation may enhance your focus, allowing you to accelerate your projects. Subordinates are likely to be cooperative, helping you complete tasks on time. You may go on short work-related trips, where you could meet an influential person who may support your business growth.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may invest in creative or artistic items to renovate your home, enhancing your social status. Implementing new strategies in your family business might yield gains in the near future. You may also find yourself occupied with family or social gatherings.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is favourable for you, as you may enjoy good health and vitality. You will likely find satisfaction in your work. However, avoid being overly blunt or engaging in arguments over trivial matters, as this could lead to disputes in the family. Job seekers might come across suitable opportunities. Lovebirds are advised to maintain harmony.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel a lack of support from your loved ones. Impatience and unhappiness might make it hard to focus on tasks, leaving desires unfulfilled. You might feel detached from your responsibilities and struggle to complete projects.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, blessings from the moon may ease work-related stress. Earnings are likely to turn into profits, and you might invest in long-term opportunities. An overseas work order could bring financial benefits in the future. Singles may find their soulmates. Students could receive good news about their academics.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, the moon's blessings could help you excel in your professional life. Implementing business plans with the support of colleagues might be effortless. Both intellectual and financial investments could start yielding profits, boosting your confidence. Wise decisions will likely lead to further benefits.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, spiritual inclinations may bring you happiness. A positive mindset might inspire you to explore spiritual or religious pursuits. Visiting a sacred place or studying occult sciences could be on your agenda. However, it's advised to share your thoughts only with those who can genuinely understand your perspective.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you might feel nervous and lack patience. Seeking peace, you may turn to spiritual or occult practices. Trusting your intuition is advised before making decisions. Deep research or focused learning might captivate your interest. Chanting mantras could provide a sense of calm and direction.

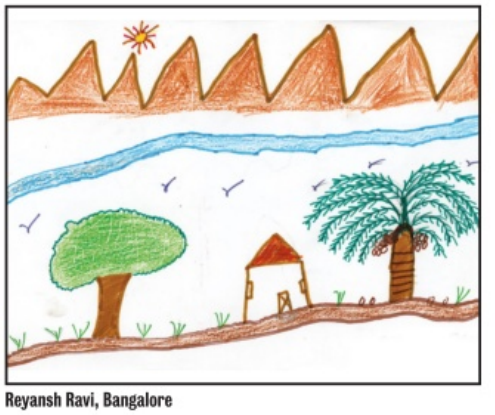
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, blessings from the moon may enhance your inner strength. You might encounter new opportunities in work or business, which could bring gains in the future. Couples might hear good news regarding childbirth. Lovebirds should communicate clearly to strengthen their relationship and secure a brighter future.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, the moon's blessings bring stability. Your performance might receive recognition from seniors, possibly leading to promotions. Stuck financial matters could resolve, improving your liquidity in business. Positive outcomes in legal matters and partnerships are likely, as several issues may now be resolved.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, good news about your career might come your way. Job seekers could focus their efforts on cracking entrance exams and succeed through hard work. Singles might hear promising news about marriage, while couples may rejoice in news related to childbirth.

KIDZONE

Sanjanna, Bangalore



Reyansh Ravi, Bangalore

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
6.1/(1/3) x 6.-1 =
6.3/1 x 6.-1 =
6.(3/1 - 1) =
6.(3 - 1)/1 =
6.2/1 =
6.2 = 36

QUOTE UNCODE
It is a fine seasoning for joy to think of those we love.

FAST FIVE

P	R	O	M	S
L	O	G	I	N
A	M	I	N	E
N	A	V	A	L
K	N	E	E	L

RIDDLER
The flute.

STRIKE OUT

M	A	U	L	E	D	P	E	A	H	E	N			
O	N		R		I	R	A		A		E			
N	O	B	L	E	R		I	S	A	B	E	L		
T		O			A	B	A	T		I		S		
H	E	R		S	C	A	M		A	T	N	O		
S		N	O	T	E	D		A	R	S	O	N		
	H		D	I	S	D	A	I	N		B			
C	E	D	A	R		E	I	D	E	R		V		
A	M	E	S		A	B	L	E		E	Y	E		
N		C		R	E	T	E		N			S		
I	C	E	B	A	G		D	E	P	O	R	T		
N		I		G	I	B		A		W		R		
E	X	T	R	A	S		G	R	A	N	N	Y		

QUICK

A	B	A	N	D	O	N	M	E	N	T				
D		L		I		A		L		E				
I	N	T	O	T	O		M	E	T	A	L	S		
H		B		V	I	M		I		E				
T	O	L	E	D	O		A	C	T	O	R	S		
A		E		I			I		T		I			
V	I	V	A	C	E		T	R	A	U	M	A		
A		A		L			Y		L		R			
K	I	N	D	E	R		S	L	I	P	U	P		
R		E		E	O	S		K		P				
A	R	M	I	N	G		A	L	A	S	K	A		
O	H	A		M		H		O						
N	O	S	E	Y	P	A	R	K	E	R				

BULL'S EYE
adult, DEFAULT, dual, duel, dust, fault, FAULTED, feud, feudal, flue, flute, fluted, fuel, laud, lute

MENSA PUZZLE
1. In each circle, add together the numbers in the left and right hand segments, and subtract 2 to give the result in the lower segment.

SUDOKU

4	1	9	2	7	6	3	8	5
7	5	2	4	3	8	6	1	9
6	8	3	1	5	9	2	7	4
5	2	1	3	8	7	9	4	6
3	9	6	5	1	4	7	2	8
8	7	4	9	6	2	1	5	3
1	6	5	7	4	3	8	9	2
9	3	7	8	2	5	4	6	1
2	4	8	6	9	1	5	3	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, Is, Ins, Dins, Winds, Disown, Windsor.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 - 8 + 3 - 1 = 3
Medium
8 + 3 x 4 - 3 = 41
Hard
7 + 8 - 2 x 4 = 52

LOOP

KAKURO

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

First look unveiled

The team of Balaramana Dinagalu celebrated Vinod Prabhkar's birthday on December 3 by unveiling the movie's first look. Balaramana Dinagalu is Vinod Prabhakar's 25th film as a hero.

"The movie is fictitious but inspired by real incidents that took place in the city during the 1980s and 1990s. The characters in the movie may have similarities of people during that time but it is not a biopic of any particular person," said director KM Chaitanya. He said the first schedule of the shooting was completed in the city recently. "The first schedule of the shooting was held for 12 days. We are planning to commence

the second schedule which will be for 20 days. We will have multiple short duration shooting schedules. As of now, we decided to have five songs for this movie. If all goes well, the movie is scheduled to arrive in theaters in August 2025," the director said, adding that an announcement will be made shortly on the selection of a female lead.

The movie is being bankrolled by Padmavathi Jayaram and Shreyas under the Padmavathi Films banner. Music is scored by Santosh Narayanan who is known for movies Kabali, Attakathi, Kaala, Bhairava, Kalki, and Dasara. It is Santosh Narayanan's 51st movie as a music director.

Title launched

RAshoka, Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly, and veteran actor and former minister Umashree launched the title of movie Thayavva at Renukamba Preview Theater on Monday. A Kannada movie with similar title – Thayavva – was released in 1997 and Sudeep played the lead in the movie. Umashree also played a key role in that movie.

Ashoka said the word – Thayavva – is very close to his heart. "The movie is about women and their importance in society. It is sad to come across incidents of foeticide in Mandya district. Such incidents are taking place in other areas in the state. People should have awareness on the importance of girl child in society. Parents should think that having a girl child is a blessing. I expect the movie Thayavva to create awareness among the people on the importance of girl child," he said.

Appreciating Ba Ma Harish for presenting the movie, Umashree said that she played either grandmother or mother in a Kannada movie released more than 25 years ago with a similar title. "I am happy to attend this event. We discussed foeticide-related issues in the Assembly. I want more movies to be made to create awareness among the public on the importance of girl child," Umashree said.

S Padmavathi Chandrasekhar makes debut as a producer in Sandalwood with this movie. Satvik Pavan has helmed the movie apart from working as a cinematographer.

PC's return to B-Town

Priyanka Chopra Jonas is now readying to return to Bollywood. Since 2021, the global star has been creating much buzz around her possible role in 'Jee Le Zaraa,' a road movie featuring Priyanka along with Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt in lead roles. This movie, directed by Farhan Akhtar and written by Zoya Akhtar, kept getting delayed.

Recently interacting with 'HT City,' Priyanka opened up on her scenario with regard to the Hindi projects, which are being sent her way: "Not joking, I meet many filmmakers here and read scripts. I have actively been looking for something I want to do in Hindi. This year was really busy for me. But I have something up my sleeve; I will leave it at that. She was tight-lipped, saying, "You will need to speak to Excel (Entertainment, Farhan Akhtar's production house) about that," leaving fans awaiting confirmation.

-ETimes

Just a thought

Samantha shares thought provoking post amid Naga Chaitanya's wedding with Sobhita

Actress Samantha shared a thought provoking post and wrote "fight like a girl" ahead of her former husband Naga Chaitanya and actress Sobhita Dhulipala's wedding.

Samantha took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a video post, where a little girl is seen pinning down a boy in a wrestling match.

She captioned it as: "#FightLikeAGirl". Chaitanya and Sobhita are all set to get married at Annapurna Studios, which was founded in 1976 by his grandfather and legendary actor Akkineni Nageswara Rao.

Speaking to the Times of India, Nagarjuna said that he was impressed by Sobhita's performance in the 2018 film Goodachari and invited her over to his house in Hyderabad to have a chat. "Chaitanya happened to walk in during one of her visits, and that's when they met for the first time if I remember correctly," recalled the actor. Their wedding is scheduled for December 4 with the muhurat set at 8:15 PM.

Chaitanya will be seen paying tribute to his grandfather, the legendary Akkineni Nageswara Rao, by donning traditional attire called 'pancha' reminiscent of his grandfather's timeless style, on Wednesday.

The actor will don the 'pancha' during the wedding ceremony. The decision has struck an emotional chord with fans, who have taken to social media to praise Naga Chaitanya for his simplicity and reverence for his roots.

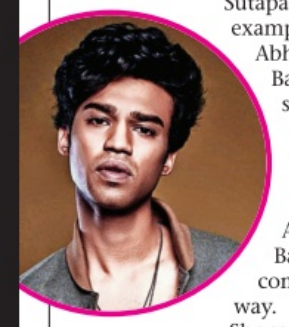
Recently, the couple's 'mangal snaanam' ritual become a viral sensation for its heartfelt simplicity.

-IANS

Burden of expectations

Irrfan Khan's son Babil Khan who was last seen in 'Qala' and 'The Railway Men' is getting a lot of love from the industry and the audience. However, the young actor is under immense pressure to live up to his father, the late Irrfan's legacy. His mother and Irrfan's wife Sutapa Sikdar opened up about it in an interview recently.

She revealed that Babil isn't just upset about losing his father but is also worried about living up to the expectations of people.



Sutapa gave an example of Abhishek Bachchan, stating that he's a good actor but comparisons with Amitabh Bachchan come in the way.

She said, as quoted by Hindustan Times, "This pressure should not be there. Irrfan never had that pressure, and when you don't put any pressure on yourself, your individuality comes out. It's not only about work but also about losing the father figure, almost in depression! And on top of that this stress and comparisons all the time. As a mother, I feel, 'Please leave my child'…"

-ETimes

Small break

Singer Sabrina Carpenter and Hollywood star Barry Keoghan have decided to take a break after dating for a year.

A source told people.com, that the couple have ended their romantic relationship for now, about a year after they began dating.

"They are both young and career-focused, so they've decided to take a break," said the source. Keoghan and Carpenter first sparked dating rumours as they were spotted grabbing dinner together in Los Angeles in early December 2023.

The Oscar-nominated actor and the "Espresso" hitmaker first crossed paths during Paris Fashion Week when they both attended a Givenchy show the previous September, reports people.com. The two were spotted supporting one another in various pursuits and on social media, with Keoghan regularly leaving sweet comments on Carpenter's Instagram posts.

The actor was also in the crowd during his then-girlfriend's Coachella appearance this past April, and even starred in her "Please Please Please" music video in June. Carpenter shared on Sunday Morning in October,that when it came to casting the video, she used her "not-even-biased opinion". She shared that Keoghan was sitting next to her. Carpenter said: "I was like, 'Who's the greatest actor that I can find for this music video?' And he was next to me in a chair. And he was so excited about it." **IANS**